Sethusamudram Project

178. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey regarding Sethusamudram Project has been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The Techno-economic Viability and detailed Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) studies for Sethusamudram Ship Canal Project (SSCP) was awarded to M/s. National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI), Nagpurin May, 2002. NEERI completed the EIA and Tecno-Economic Viability Study in May 2004 and July 2004 respectively. As a part of the study, NEERI has conducted survey at Adam's Bridge over an area measuring 20 km by 4 km. In addition to this, the National Hydrographic Office (NHO), Dehradun has conducted Bathymetry Survey and Sub-bottom Profiler along the Canal alignment from Adam's Bridge for 500 m width. The preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) has been assigned to M/s. L&T Ramboll Consulting Engineers, Chennai. To assess accurate quantity of dredging, detailed Bathymetry Survey has been entrusted to National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) to conduct survey at close interval of 150 m for a width of 1 km', along the alignment.

(c) Implementation of the project will betaken up only after obtaining necessary clearances and is likely to be completed within three years thereafter.

Closed SSIs in Rajasthan and Punjab

179. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state;

(a) the number of SSIs registered in Rajasthan and Punjab that have been closed for the last three years; and

(b) what are the reasons for their closure?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) As reported by the State Government of Rajasthan, 1691 small scale industrial (SSI) units have been closed during the last three years (2001-04). As regards Punjab, 103 SSI units are reported to have been deregistered during the last three years (2001-04) on account of continuous closure for more than one year and other reasons.

(b) The main reasons for their closure are inadequacy/shortage of working capital, fall in demand, changes in technology, shortage of raw materials, marketing problems, increase in competition on account of globalisation and liberalization, etc.

Package for SSIs in Rajasthan and Punjab

180. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any special packages have been granted to Rajasthan and Punjab in the Tenth Five Year Plan to revive the Small Scale Industries of the States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what is the percentage of growth expected by the end of the Tenth Five Year Plan in Small Scale Industries in Rajasthan; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Based on the recommendations of the Working Group set up under the Chairmanship of Shri S.S. Kohli, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has drawn up revised guidelines for rehabilitation of sick Small Scale Industry units, which include, *inter alia,* change in the definition of sick Small Scale Industry units, norms for deciding their viability, concessional finance, etc. The RBI has circulated the revised guidelines on 16th January 2002 to all the Scheduled Commercial Banks for implementation. The revised criteria will facilitate the banks to detect sickness at an early stage and take corrective action for revival of the potentially viable sick SSI units. The revised guidelines are to be implemented in all the States/Union Territories in the country including the States of Rajasthan and Punjab. Further, the Government of Rajasthan has made a provision of Rs. 50 lakh as Interest Free Loan in lieu of Sales Tax for the revival of sick SSI units under special package during the Tenth Five Year Plan in the State Plan.